

**PA Coalition for Oral Health (PCOH)
Community Water Fluoridation Grants
Request for Proposal (RFP) 2020-2021
Guidelines and Application**

BACKGROUND

Fluoridation has been identified as the most feasible and cost-effective method of delivering fluoride to all members of a community, regardless of age, education, or income. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that for every \$1 invested in community water fluoridation, up to \$32 in annual dental care costs can be saved. The CDC has also identified water fluoridation as one of the Ten Great Public Health Achievements of the 20th Century.

Scientists in the United States and other countries have studied the safety and benefits of fluoridated water for more than 75 years and found no convincing evidence to link water fluoridation to any potential unwanted health effect. As of 2018, 64% of Pennsylvanians served by community water systems receive fluoridated water (which means that nearly 58% of *all* Pennsylvanians receive fluoridated water). Increasing that percentage will improve the quality of life and reduce overall healthcare costs for more Pennsylvania citizens.

PURPOSE

This RFP seeks the following outcomes:

- To issue grant funds to those public water systems wishing to initiate, update, or expand the practice of community water fluoridation. Priority will be given to initiation projects.
- To increase dental preventive measures and improve overall health and well-being of Pennsylvanians served by community water systems.

FUNDING

This program is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Grant NU58DP006467: Using Surveillance Data and Evidence-based Interventions to Improve Oral Health Outcomes in Pennsylvania and administered by PCOH.

PCOH will award a minimum of one \$10,000 Community Water Fluoridation Grant in 2020-21. Additional grants may be awarded as funding becomes available.

Maximum Request The maximum request per water system may not exceed \$10,000.

Applicant Match Applicant match is not required. However, Grantees are responsible for any additional costs exceeding the maximum award amount of \$10,000.

Eligible Expenses Community Water Fluoridation (CWF) Grant funds can be used for:

- Planning and engineering services associated with initiation of a fluoridation program
- Equipment to initiate a fluoridation program

- New equipment to replace or expand a current fluoridation program
- Engineering services needed to modify current fluoridation system
- Modifications to existing water system equipment
- Equipment for daily testing of fluoride level
- Personal safety equipment for fluoride handling
- Administrative costs related to initiating fluoridation (permits, licenses, etc.)

Funds **CANNOT** be used for:

- Office equipment
- To match other federal funds
- New building construction
- Personnel salaries

Cost Reimbursement Costs incurred for this project will be covered through reimbursement only. All costs are paid by the Grantee and a reimbursement request is submitted to PCOH for payment upon receipt of required documentation. All grant-associated expenses must be incurred and billed to PCOH before **April 30, 2021**. Reimbursements will be dispersed approximately 6 – 8 weeks after all required documentation is submitted to PCOH.

ELIGIBILITY

This funding round prioritizes community water systems that are initiating a fluoridation program. Systems may be at any stage in the initiation process. For example, a water system that is in the early stages of exploring the wishes of the community it serves re: CWF is eligible, as is a water system that has received a permit to add fluoridation as a treatment. **Systems which currently are fluoridating may also apply** for equipment updates and replacements, though priority will be for awards to initiate fluoridation.

To qualify, systems must:

- Be a public water system with a PWSID
- Be able to enter into a grant agreement with PCOH
- Provide a letter of support from the local water authority or municipal authority
- Provide a copy of DEP permit to fluoridate, if applicable
- Agree to continue fluoridating for a minimum of 5 years
- Complete the [PA Water Systems Fluoridation Equipment Survey](#)
- Agree to have at least 50% of their water operators who handle fluoride additives complete the online Fluoridation Learning Online (FLO) course from CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/engineering/training.htm>

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. Applications for initiation projects will receive first consideration. To qualify for funding, water systems must submit a grant application based on established guidelines.

Application Content and Evaluation

Please provide the following information in the order listed:

1. **Justification** Provide a detailed description of the need for the new or additional equipment and supplies. (15 points)
2. **Plan for Installation, Implementation, and Sustainability** Describe your plan for updating or expanding your fluoridation program, including a project timeline and sustainability plan. (25 points)
3. **Training** Describe any training planned for water operator personnel for existing fluoridation system and for equipment included in this proposal. Include SOP if you have one. (15 points)
4. **Population Served** How many people does your water system serve? How many people receive or will receive optimally fluoridated water? Priority will be given to the highest population served. (15 points)
5. **Budget** Include an itemized budget including equipment, supplies (including fluoride additives), installation, engineering, and other required cost estimates to update or expand fluoridation. (15 points)
6. **Ready to Go** Include letter of support from local water authority and DEP permit, if applicable, indicating readiness to move forward if grant is awarded. (15 points)

Closing Date Applications responding to all six elements must be received by PCOH by **November 20, 2020**. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

All grant applicants MUST complete the [State Fluoridation Equipment Survey](#) prior to submitting their applications. Applications from water systems that have not completed the survey will not be considered.

Applications can be submitted either electronically to info@paoralhealth.org or by U.S. mail to:

PA Coalition for Oral Health
Attn: Community Water Fluoridation Grants
PO Box 242
Delmont, PA 15626

Awardees will be notified by December 11, 2020.

Important Dates

November 20, 2020	Application deadline
December 11, 2020	Awardees notified
April 30, 2021	Final reports due